Nationalisation of Indian rivers

754. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to nationalize our country's rivers; and

(b) if not, what steps Government propose to take to solve the water-based conflicts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) At present there is no proposal before the Government to nationalize the rivers.

(b) The Central Government endeavours to resolve the dispute by negotiations failing which the dispute is referred to a Tribunal at the request of party States as per the provision of Inter State Water Disputes Act, 1956 for adjudication. The said Act has been amended on March 28,2002 to provide for time-bound adjudication of disputes by theTrlbunal. Also as per the amended Act, the decision of the Tribunal, after its publication in the Official Gazette, shall have the same force as an order or decree of the Supreme Court.

Management of Water Resources

755. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased state:

(a) whether a fresh review has been undertaken to assess the availability of utilisable water and its demand in the country in the wake of recent drought in several parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that with the present rate of growth in population the demand for utilisable water for domestic industrial and agricultural purposes would out-strip its supply, reaching critical famine conditions by 2025 A.D.; and

(d) if so, the details of the long term plans drawn up to ensure better management of water resources and other research based practical and affordable solutions?